

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Final Office Action (Paper No. 11), mailed December 23, 2002, please amend the application, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 6 and 7 as follows:

C1 Claim 1 (Amended). A flexible connector having a fitting portion for being connected with a counterpart connector, said flexible connector comprising:

a plurality of flexible conductive wires arranged on a plane in parallel to each other and extending in a predetermined direction to have end portions;

a flexible reinforcing metallic plate member placed at one side of said plane to reinforce said flexible conductive wires, said flexible reinforcing member having a contact portion;

an insulator holding said flexible conductive wires and said flexible reinforcing metallic plate member to make said fitting portion in cooperation with said end portions [of the flexible conductive wires] and said contact portion; and

coupling means connected to said insulator and said flexible reinforcing metallic plate member for mechanically coupling said insulator and said flexible conductive wires to said flexible reinforcing metallic plate member, said end portions and said contact portion being brought into contact with said counterpart connector when said fitting portion is connected with said counterpart connector.

Claim 2 (Original). A flexible connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said coupling means comprises:

a first engaging portion connected to said flexible reinforcing member; and
a second engaging portion connected to said insulator for engaging with said first engaging portion to integrate said insulator with said flexible reinforcing member.

Claim 3 (Original). A flexible connector as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a first insulating sheet placed between each of said flexible conductive wires and said flexible reinforcing member for insulating said flexible conductive wires from said reinforcing member.

Claim 4 (Original). A flexible connector as claimed in claim 3, wherein said first insulation sheet has at least one elongated slit extending in said predetermined direction.

cl Claim 6 (Amended). A flexible connector as claimed in ~~claim 3~~35, wherein said flexible reinforcing member has at least one elongated slit extending in said predetermined direction.

Claim 7 (Amended). A flexible connector as claimed in claim ~~3~~35 wherein said counterpart connector includes a ground contact, said flexible reinforcing member having a ground part for coming in contact with said ground contact.

Claim 8 (Original). A flexible connector as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a second insulating sheet placed at the other side of said plane to cover said flexible conductive wires.

Claim 9 (Original). A flexible connector as claimed in claim 8, wherein said second insulation sheet has at least one elongated slit extending in said predetermined direction.

Claim 10 (Original). A flexible connector as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a third insulating sheet placed on said flexible reinforcing member to cover said flexible reinforcing member.

Claim 11 (Original). A flexible connector as claimed in claim 10, wherein said second

insulation sheet has at least one elongated slit extending in said predetermined direction.

cl Claim 12 (Original). A flexible connector as claimed in claim 1, wherein said flexible conductive wires are grouped into a plurality of wire groups between which said flexible conductive wires have different widths.
